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✓  
This application is an application filed under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 371 as a national stage of international application PCT/EP00/06937, which was filed July 20, 2000.

TECHNICAL FIELD--.

✓  
On page 1, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 with the following rewritten two paragraphs and interposed heading:

B  
--The invention relates to a switching system which has at least one fused switch unit with a fuse link which can be switched to and fro between a switched-on position and a switched-off position.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Such a switching system furthermore has a switch for closing and interrupting the circuit of the electrical power system, as well as a switching and blocking apparatus which prevents the circuit from being closed by the switch.--

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On page 1, after line 30, please insert the following new heading:

AY  
--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

✓  
On page 1, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 37 with the following:

AY  
--The object is achieved by a switching system according to the invention.--

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On page 4, after line 17, please insert the following new heading:

A6

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

On page 4, after line 32, please insert the following new heading:

A7

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT--.

On page 9, in line 1, please delete the heading "Patent Claims" and insert the following new heading: WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A switching system, having:
  - at least one fused switch unit (10) with a fuse link (20) which can be switched to and fro between a switched-on position and a switched-off position,
  - a switch for closing and interrupting the circuit of the switching system,
  - a blocking apparatus, which can prevent the circuit from being closed by the switch,

wherein

  - a combined switching and blocking apparatus (30) is provided, with a blocking element (32) having at least one blocking rod (33) for each fused switch unit (10) being mounted on an operating lever (31) of the switch for closing and interrupting the circuit,

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